



Sierra National Forest
559.297.0706
TTY 559.322.0425

SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST RECREATION REPORT

May 26, 2011



www.fs.fed.us/r5/sierra

General Summary:

Memorial Day is almost here and there are many great opportunities for recreation on the Sierra National Forest – swimming, fishing, camping and you can take your dog for a hike.

This year visitors will find some changes due to heavy snow conditions. The Merced, San Joaquin and Kings Rivers are flowing at high levels, are icy cold and running swift. Visitors need to be cautious around all bodies of water and watch for rising water levels, especially in the afternoon.

Spring storms and ice/snow conditions have impacted the opening of roads, trails and campgrounds. If you are planning to visit the Sierra National Forest you will find the snow line at approximately 5,500 feet in elevation.

The gate at Kaiser Pass remains closed as well as public access to the lakes due to extreme snow and road conditions. Road 5S80 is open for approximately seven miles, up to the gate at Kaiser Pass. The pass is currently being plowed and will open once determined safe for motorized access.

Campgrounds on the Bass Lake Ranger District open for Memorial Day weekend include: Crane Valley Group, Dirt Flat, Dry Gulch, Fish Creek, Forks, Little Jackass, Lupine Cedar, Mammoth Pool, Recreation Point Group, Rock Creek, Soda Springs, Spring Cove, Summerdale and Wishon Point. For the most current information, please contact the Bass Lake Ranger District at 559-877-2218.

Campgrounds on the High Sierra Ranger District open for Memorial Day weekend include: Kirch Flat, Bretz Mill, Black Rock, and Gravel Flat. For the most current information, please contact the High Sierra Ranger District at 559-855-5355.

Fishing: Creeks and streams are open to trout fishing. For more information please visit California Department of Fish and Game website at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/>.

Bears: Keep a clean vehicle and camp. Proper food storage is required. Never approach a bear. For more information visit <http://www.sierrawild.gov/bears/>

Fire Restrictions: There are no fire restrictions in affect in Sierra National Forest.

Hunting: For information about California hunting regulations please visit the California Department of Fish and Game website: www.dfg.ca.gov . For maps of hunting areas visit the following website <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/deer/deermaps.html>

Off Highway Vehicle Routes: Most OHV trails are closed for the season. All OHV routes are "Tread Lightly" trails - pack out what you pack in, follow State and Federal OHV rules and regulations.

Campfire Permits: If you are camping outside of a developed campground you will need a campfire permit. Permits are free of charge and can be obtained at any Sierra National Forest office (see list below).

Wilderness: Trailhead quotas are in effect May 1 through Nov 1. Wilderness Permits are required for all overnight stays in wilderness areas. Reservations may be made up to one year in advance. Wilderness reservations may be made at any Forest Service Office. To download a wilderness application permit, visit our website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sierra/passes/wilderness-reservation-form.pdf>. First come first serve wilderness permits may be obtained at Forest Service Offices up to one day prior to departure. Weather can change quickly, make sure you watch weather reports and pack accordingly.

Dispersed Camping: Is allowed in the Sierra National Forest. (exceptions: Huntington Lake Basin, Dinkey Creek Recreation Area, Bass Lake Recreation Area, Redinger Recreation Area, and the Merced River Canyon). Camp 100 feet from any water source and do not block any roadways. There is a maximum stay of 21 days per district per year. If you pack it in, pack it out.

Firewood Cutting: Wood cutting is open. To cut and gather firewood in the Sierra National Forest, you must obtain a woodcutting permit at one of the Sierra National Forest Offices: North Fork, Prather, Clovis, Oakhurst, or Mariposa. Permits are valid April 1st through November 30th. Make sure to call daily to ensure that chainsaw use is permitted that day.

HIGH SIERRA RANGER DISTRICT (South and East of the San Joaquin River)

Campgrounds R = Reservable P = Parking RV = Recreation Vehicle NS = No Services * = Operated by Concesionaire

Name	Status	Sites	Water	Toilets	RV	Fees	Elev	Comments
Badger Flat*	Closed	15		Vault	Yes	\$	8200'	On Kaiser Pass Road
Billy Creek, Lower*	Closed	13	Yes	Vault	Yes	\$R	7000'	Lakeside. Located at Huntington Lake
Billy Creek, Upper*	Closed	44	Yes	F/V	Yes	\$R	7000'	Located at Huntington Lake Rd.
Black Rock	Open	10	Yes	Vault	Yes	\$	4200'	Located 1.5 from Black Rock Station
Bolsillo	Closed	3	Yes	Vault		None	7400'	Near High Sierra Visitor Station
Bretz Mill	Open	10	No	Vault	Yes	None	3300'	Near Blue Canyon Work Ctr
Buck Meadow*	Closed	10	Yes	Vault		\$	6800'	McKinley Grove Rd. near Wishon
Catavee*	Closed	24	Yes	Flush	Yes	\$R	7000'	Located at Huntington Lake
College*	Closed	11	Yes	F/V	Yes	\$R	7000'	Located on Huntington Lake
Deer Creek*	Closed	28	Yes	Flush	Yes	\$R	7000'	Located on Huntington Lake
Dinkey Creek*	Closed	123	Yes	F/V	Yes	\$R	7000'	Located adjacent to Dinkey Creek
Dorabelle*	Closed	67	Yes	Vault	Yes	\$R	7000'	Near town of Shaver on Dorabella Rd
Gigantea*	Closed	10	No	Vault	Yes	\$	6500'	On McKinley Grove Rd.
Jackass Mdw*	Closed	42	Yes	Vault	Yes	\$R	7200'	
Kinnikinnick*	Closed	27	Yes	Flush	Yes	\$R	7000'	At Huntington Lake
Kirch Flat	Open	25	No	Vault	Yes	None	1100'	On the Kings River
Lilly Pad	Closed	15	No	Vault	Yes	\$	6500'	
Marmot Rock	Closed	15	No	Vault		\$	8200'	
Mono Creek*	Closed	14		Vault	Yes	\$R	8200'	Located on the road to Edison Lake
Mono Hot Springs*	Closed	22	No	Vault	Yes	\$R	6500'	
Portal Forbay*	Closed	11		Vault		\$	7200	Located 12 miles up Kaiser Pass
Rancheria*	Closed	145	No	Vault	No	\$R	7000'	Closed until December 2011
Sample Mdw	Closed	16		Vault	Yes	None	7800'	Kaiser Pass
Sawmill Flats	Closed	15	No	Vault		None	6700'	From Black Rock Road
Swanson Meadow*	Closed	8		Vault	Yes	\$	5600'	Located on Dinkey Creek Rd.
Trapper Springs	Closed	70	No	Vault	Yes	\$	8200'	Located at Courtright
Vermilion*	Closed	31	No	Vault	Yes	\$R	7700'	
Voyager Rock	Closed	13	No	Vault	Yes	None	8200'	Located at Courtright Reservoir
Ward Lake	Closed	17	No	Vault	Yes	\$	7300'	Near Florence Lake
West Kaiser	Closed	10	No	Vault	Yes	None	5400'	Off of Stump Springs Road

Picnic Sites R = Reservable P = Parking * = Operated by Concessionaire

Name	Status	Sites	Water	Toilets	Fees	Elev.	Comments
Bear Cove*	Closed	25	Yes	Flush	\$	7000'	Huntington Lake
Billy Creek*	Closed	7	Yes	Vault		7000'	West end of Huntington Lake
Dinkey	Closed	12	Yes	Vault		5700'	Off McKinley Grove Road
Dorabelle*	Closed	22	Yes	Vault	\$	5400'	In Dorabelle campground
Dowville*	Closed	5		Vault		7000'	West end of Huntington Lake
Florence Lake	Closed	18	Yes	Vault		7400'	Near Florence Lake Resort
Huntington Lake Boat Launch*	Closed	9		Vault	\$	7000'	
Kirch Flat*	Open	5		Vault		1100'	On Kings River
McKinleyGrove	Closed	10		Vault		6200'	Historical site and Nature trail.
Mono Creek	Closed	6		Vault		7400'	3 miles from Edison Lake
Wee-Mee-Kute	Closed	8		Vault		8300'	PG&E – Courtright Resv.

Off Highway Vehicle Trails

Road	Status	Comments
Bald Mt.	Open	
Bear Diversion	Closed	

Brewer	Closed	
Coyote Lake	Closed	
Dusy/Ershim	Closed	
Hooper	Closed	
Mirror Lake	Closed	
Onion Springs	Closed	
Red Lake	Closed	
Spanish Lake	Closed	
Strawberry Lake	Closed	
Swamp Lake	Closed	
West Lake	Closed	

BASS LAKE RANGER DISTRICT (North and West of the San Joaquin River) Campgrounds

R = Reservable P = Parking RV = Recreation Vehicle NS = No Services * = Operated by Concesionaire

Name	Status	Sites	Water	Toilet	RV	Fees	Elev.	Comments
Big Sandy*	Closed	22		Vault	Yes	\$	5800'	Jackson Road, Fish Camp
Bowler (Group)	Closed	15		Vault	Yes	None	7000'	Horses permitted
Chilkoot*	Closed	14		Vault	Yes	\$R	4600'	4 Miles up Beasore Road from Rd. 274
China Bar	Open	6		Vault		None	3300'	Boat or hike in only
Clover Meadow	Closed	7	Yes	Vault	Yes	None	7000'	At Clover Meadow Station
Crane Valley Grp *	Open	7		Vault	Yes	\$R	3500'	Bass Lake, across from Recreation Point
Dirt Flat*	Open	5	Yes	Vault		\$R	1600'	Year Round / Merced River, Hwy 140
Dry Gulch*	Open	4	Yes	Vault		\$R	1600'	Merced River, Hwy 140,
Fish Creek*	Open	7		Vault		\$R	4600'	Off Minerets Road
Forks*	Closed	31	Yes	Flush	Yes	\$R	3500'	Bass Lake, by Forks Resort
Fresno Dome*	Closed	17		Vault	Yes	\$	6400'	12 miles Hwy 41 to Sky Ranch Rd
Gaggs Camp*	Closed	12		Vault	Yes	\$	5700'	On Sand Creek
Granite Creek	Closed	20		Vault	Yes	None	7000'	horse corral, near Clover Meadow
Grey's Mtn.*	Closed	27		Vault	Yes	\$	5400'	8 mi north of Bass Lake
Jerseydale	Closed	10	Yes	Vault	Yes	None	3600'	12 mi .from Mariposa Hwy 49
Kelty Meadow*	Closed	10		Vault	Yes	\$R	5800'	10 mi from Hwy 41 on Sky Ranch Rd.
Little Jackass	Open	6		Vault	Yes	None	4800'	Just off the Scenic Byway
Lower Chiquito*	Closed	7		Vault	Yes	\$	4900'	On Chiquito Creek
Lupine/Cedar	Open	113	Yes	Flush	Yes	\$R	3500'	Bass Lake - Open Year Round
Mammoth Pool	Open	47	Yes	Vault	Yes	\$R	3600'	On Mammoth Pool Road
Nelder Grove	Closed	10		Vault	Yes	None	5500'	8 miles on Sky Ranch Rd
Placer*	Closed	7		Vault		\$	4100'	On Chiquito Creek
Recreation Pt	Open	4	Yes	Flush		\$R	3500'	Bass Lake, across from Visitor Station, baseball /volleyball area & amphitheater
Redinger Lake	Open	5		Vault	Yes	None	1400'	NO Open FIRES ; boat launch
Rock Creek*	Open	18	Yes	Vault	Yes	\$R	4300'	Double sites
Soda Springs*	Closed	18		Vault	Yes	\$	4300'	Along Scenic Byway
Soquel*	Closed	12		Vault	Yes	\$R	5400'	8 mi from Hwy 41
Spring Cove*	Open	62	Yes	Flush	Yes	\$R	3500'	Bass Lake
Summerdale*	Open	30	Yes	Vault	Yes	\$R	5000'	1 mi. north of Fish Camp, Hwy 41
Summit*	Closed	8		Vault		None	5800'	8 miles from highway 49
Sweetwater*	Closed	10		Vault	Yes	\$R	3800'	On Chiquito Creek
Texas Flat Group*	Closed	4		Vault	Yes	\$R	5400'	Sky Ranch Rd, horse corral
Upper Chiquito*	Closed	20		Vault	Yes	None	6800'	East Fork of Chiquito Creek
Whiskers*	Closed	8		Vault	Yes	\$	5300'	Primitive camping
Whisky Falls	Closed	18		Vault	Yes	None	5800'	Scenic Whisky Creek.
Wishon Point*	Open	47	Yes	Flush	Yes	\$R	3500'	Bass Lake

Picnic Sites R/P = Reservable P = Parking * = Operated by Concessionaire

Name	Status	Sites	Water	Toilet	Fees	Elev.	Comments
Cranberry Launch/Picnic*	Open	6		Vault	\$	1600'	Merced River, Hwy 140, Day Use Only
Denver Church*	Open	27	Yes	Flush	\$	3400'	Bass Lake
Falls*	Open	6	Yes	Flush	\$	3500'	North shore Bass Lake
Indian Flat*	Open	10		Vault	\$	1500'	Merced River, Hwy 140, Day Use Only
Lakeside*	Open	12	Yes	Flush	\$	3500'	Bass Lake

Little Denver*	Open	7	Yes	Flush	\$	3500'	Bass Lake
McClendon Beach*	Open	6		Vault		1600'	Day Use Only, Merced River
Mile High*	Open	2		Vault		5300'	Scenic overlook, Day Use Only
Pinpoint*	Open	11	Yes	Flush	\$	3500'	Bass Lake
Pine Slope	Open	10	Yes	Flush	\$	3500'	Bass Lake
Recreation Point Group Picnic*	Open	3	Yes	Flush	\$	3500'	Bass Lake- Across from Visitor Station.
Redbud*	Open	6		Vault	\$	1500'	Merced River, Hwy 140 Day Use Only.
Rocky Point*	Open	8	Yes	Vault	\$	3500'	Bass Lake, Spring Cove Hiking Trail
Westfall*	Closed	4		Vault		4500'	Along Hwy 41, So. of Fish Camp
Willow Cove*	Closed	3	Yes		\$	3500'	North Shore of Bass Lake
Windy Point	Closed	1		Vault		3400'	West of Mammoth Pool
Wishon Point Boat Launch*	Open	7	Yes	Flush	\$	3500'	Closed due to water level. Boat launching available at the Pines Marina

OHV Trails

OHV Routes	Status	Comments
Green Mtn/Cattle Mtn. Routes	Closed	
Hite Cove 4X4 (FR3S02)	Closed	
Iron Lake Route	Closed	
Miami Motorcycle Area	Closed	
Red Top Route	Closed	
Shuteye Peak Route	Closed	
Star Lake Route	Closed	

Hiking Trails

Trails	Status
Fresno Dome Trail	Closed
Goat Mtn. Trail	Open – Caution Poison Oak
Hite Cove Hiking	Open – Use caution
Lewis Creek	Open – 3.7 miles along Hwy 41 5 miles North of Oakhurst
Nelder Grove Trails	Closed
Shadow of the Giants NRT	Closed
Savage Lundy Trail	Open – From Jerseydale – Access below Hite Cove 4X4 Trail
Way-of-the-Mono Trail Interpretive Trail	Open – Across from Dener Church Day Use Area; ½ mile self-guided trail
Willow Creek Trail	Open – Angel Falls, great caution advised, rocks extremely slippery

Sierra National Forest Offices and Community Visitor Bureau's

Office	Address	Phone	Office Hours
Forest Headquarters and Ranger District Offices			
Sierra National Forest Headquarters	1600 Tollhouse Rd Clovis, CA 93611	(559) 297-0706 Hearing Impaired (559) 322-0425	Open: Monday-Friday Hours: 8:00am-4:30pm Closed: Saturday - Sunday
High Sierra Ranger District	29688 Auberry Rd P.O. Box 559 Prather, CA 93651	(559) 855-5355 Hearing Impaired California Relay Service 711	Open: 7 Days a Week Hours: 8:00am-4:30pm
Bass Lake Ranger District	57003 Road 225 North Fork, CA 93643	(559) 877-2218 Hearing Impaired California Relay Service 711	Open: Monday-Saturday Hours: 8:00am-4:30pm Closed: Sunday
Forest Service Summer Offices			
Eastwood	Hwy 168 and Kaiser Pass Road at Huntington Lake	(559) 893-6611 Hearing Impaired California Relay Service 711	Open: Thursday – Monday Hours: 8:00am-4:30pm Closed: Tuesday and Wednesday
Dinkey Creek	Dinkey Creek Road	(559) 841-3404 Hearing Impaired California Relay Service 711	Closed for the Season
High Sierra Visitor Information Station	On Kaiser Pass Road	(559) 877-7173 Hearing Impaired California Relay Service 711	Closed for the Season
Forest Service Oakhurst Office	41969 Hwy 41, Oakhurst, CA 93644	(559) 658-7588 Hearing Impaired California Relay Service 711	Open: Tuesday-Saturday Hours: 8:30am -5:00pm
Forest Service Mariposa Office	5158 Suite A Highway 140 Mariposa, CA 95338	(209) 966-3638 Hearing Impaired California Relay Service 711	Open: Tuesday-Saturday Hours: 8:30am -5:00pm
Clover Meadow Wilderness Office	Located at Clover Meadow	(559) 877-2218 ext 3136 Hearing Impaired California Relay Service 711	Closed for the Season
Community Visitor Centers			
Yosemite Sierra Visitor Bureau (Oakhurst)	41969 Highway 41, Oakhurst, CA 93644	(559)-683-4636	Open: Monday-Saturday Hours: 8:30am -5:00pm
Mariposa Interagency Visitor Center	5158 Highway 140 Mariposa, CA 95338	209-966-7081	Open: 7 Days a Week Hours: 8:15 am – 5:00 pm Saturdays 9:00 am – 4:30pm